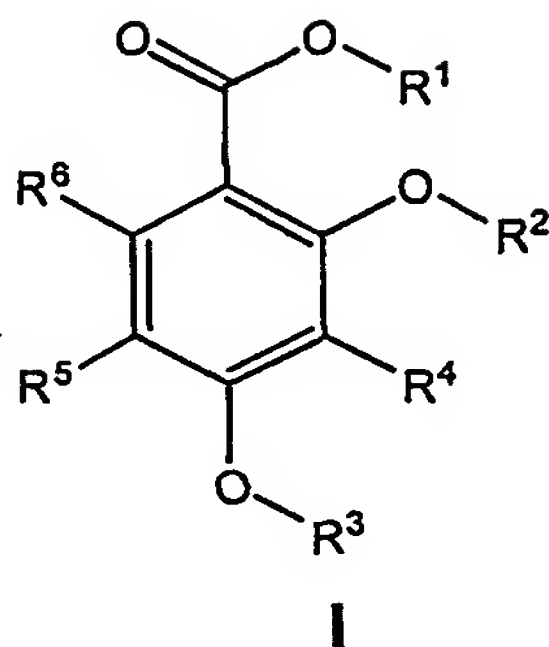


## CLAIMS

1.- A compound of general formula I:



wherein:

R¹ represents hydrogen or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl;

R² represents hydrogen or -C(=O)R⁷;

R³ represents C<sub>1-5</sub> fluoroalkyl, C<sub>2-5</sub> fluoroalkenyl or C<sub>2-5</sub> fluoroalkynyl;

R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ independently represent hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, nitro, -NR⁸R⁹, -S(O)<sub>x</sub>R¹⁰ or -C(=O)R¹¹;

R⁷ and R¹⁰ independently represent C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl;

R⁸, R⁹ and R¹¹ independently represent hydrogen or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl; and

x represents 0, 1 or 2;

with the proviso that when R¹ represents methyl, R² represents hydrogen, R³ represents 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethyl and R⁴ and R⁵ represent hydrogen then R⁶ cannot be hydroxy, and with the further proviso that when R¹ represents hydrogen, R² represents hydrogen and R³ represents 3-fluoropropyl then R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ cannot represent simultaneously fluoro; and the salts, solvates and prodrugs thereof.

2.- A compound according to claim 1 wherein R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ represent hydrogen.

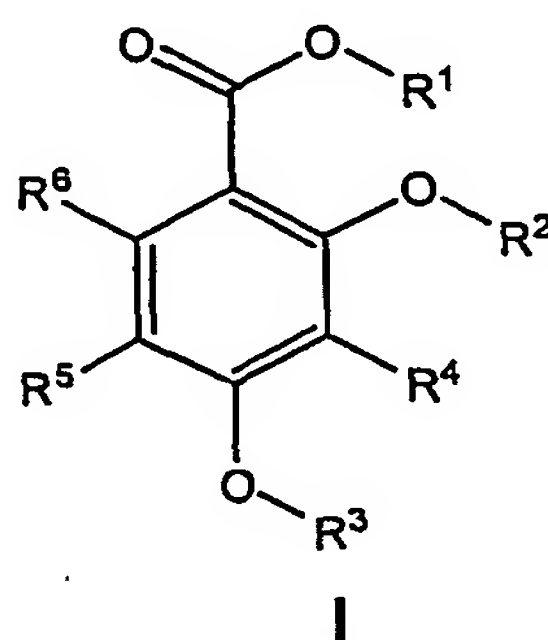
3.- A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R³ represents C<sub>1-5</sub> fluoroalkyl.

4.- A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R³ represents C<sub>1-3</sub> fluoroalkyl, C<sub>2-3</sub> fluoroalkenyl or C<sub>2-3</sub> fluoroalkynyl.

5.- A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R³ represents C<sub>1-3</sub> fluoroalkyl.

6.- A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R³ represents 2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropyl.

- 7.- A compound according to any of claims 1 to 6 wherein  $R^1$  represents hydrogen.
- 8.- A compound according to any of claims 1 to 7 wherein  $R^2$  represents hydrogen or acetyl.
- 5 9.- A compound according to claim 1 selected from:  
methyl 2-hydroxy-4-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropoxy)benzoate;  
methyl 2-hydroxy-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)benzoate;  
methyl 2-hydroxy-4-(2,2,3,3-tetrafluoropropoxy)benzoate;  
methyl 2-hydroxy-4-(2-fluoroethoxy)benzoate;  
10 methyl 4-(2,2-difluoroethoxy)-2-hydroxybenzoate;  
2-hydroxy-4-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropoxy)benzoic acid;  
2-hydroxy-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)benzoic acid;  
2-hydroxy-4-(2,2,3,3-tetrafluoropropoxy)benzoic acid;  
2-hydroxy-4-(2-fluoroethoxy)benzoic acid;  
15 4-(2,2-difluoroethoxy)-2-hydroxybenzoic acid;  
2-acetoxy-4-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropoxy)benzoic acid; and  
2-acetoxy-4-(2-fluoroethoxy)benzoic acid;  
or a salt, solvate or prodrug thereof.
- 10.- 2-Hydroxy-4-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropoxy)benzoic acid and the salts,  
20 solvates and prodrugs thereof.
- 11.- 2-Acetoxy-4-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropoxy)benzoic acid and the salts,  
solvates and prodrugs thereof.
- 12.- A compound of general formula I:



25

wherein:

$R^1$  represents hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

$R^2$  represents hydrogen or  $-C(=O)R^7$ ;

$R^3$  represents  $C_{1-5}$  fluoroalkyl,  $C_{2-5}$  fluoroalkenyl or  $C_{2-5}$  fluoroalkynyl;

$R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  independently represent hydrogen,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, nitro,  $-NR^8R^9$ ,  $-S(O)_xR^{10}$  or  $-C(=O)R^{11}$ ;

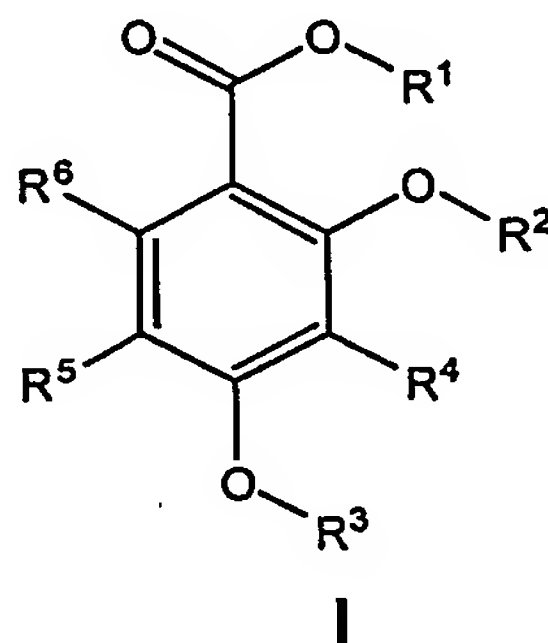
5  $R^7$  and  $R^{10}$  independently represent  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

$R^8$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{11}$  independently represent hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl; and

$x$  represents 0, 1 or 2;

or a salt, solvate or prodrug thereof, for use as an active pharmaceutical ingredient.

10 13.- A compound of general formula I:



wherein:

$R^1$  represents hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

15  $R^2$  represents hydrogen or  $-C(=O)R^7$ ;

$R^3$  represents  $C_{1-5}$  fluoroalkyl,  $C_{2-5}$  fluoroalkenyl or  $C_{2-5}$  fluoroalkynyl;

$R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  independently represent hydrogen,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, nitro,  $-NR^8R^9$ ,  $-S(O)_xR^{10}$  or  $-C(=O)R^{11}$ ;

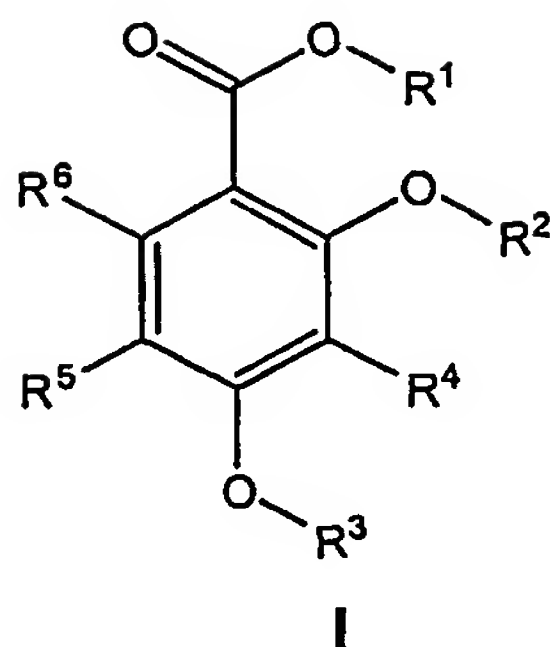
20  $R^7$  and  $R^{10}$  independently represent  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

$R^8$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{11}$  independently represent hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl; and

$x$  represents 0, 1 or 2;

or a salt, solvate or prodrug thereof, for use in a method of treatment of the human or animal body.

25 14.- A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an effective amount of a compound of formula I



wherein:

$R^1$  represents hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

$R^2$  represents hydrogen or  $-C(=O)R^7$ ;

5  $R^3$  represents  $C_{1-5}$  fluoroalkyl,  $C_{2-5}$  fluoroalkenyl or  $C_{2-5}$  fluoroalkynyl;

$R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  independently represent hydrogen,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, nitro,  $-NR^8R^9$ ,  $-S(O)_xR^{10}$  or  $-C(=O)R^{11}$ ;

$R^7$  and  $R^{10}$  independently represent  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

10  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{11}$  independently represent hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl; and

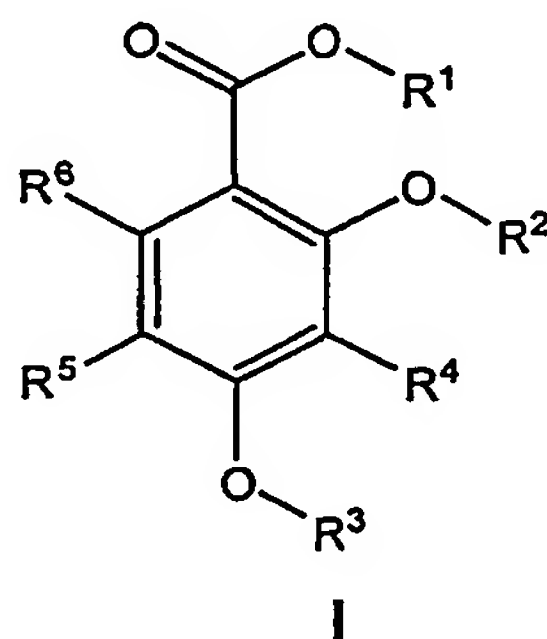
$x$  represents 0, 1 or 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

15 15.- A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14 further comprising one or more additional drugs.

16.- A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14 further comprising one or more chemotherapeutic agents.

17.- A product comprising a compound of formula I



wherein:

$R^1$  represents hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

$R^2$  represents hydrogen or  $-C(=O)R^7$ ;

$R^3$  represents  $C_{1-5}$  fluoroalkyl,  $C_{2-5}$  fluoroalkenyl or  $C_{2-5}$  fluoroalkynyl;

$R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  independently represent hydrogen,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, nitro,  $-NR^8R^9$ ,  $-S(O)_xR^{10}$  or  $-C(=O)R^{11}$ ;

$R^7$  and  $R^{10}$  independently represent  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

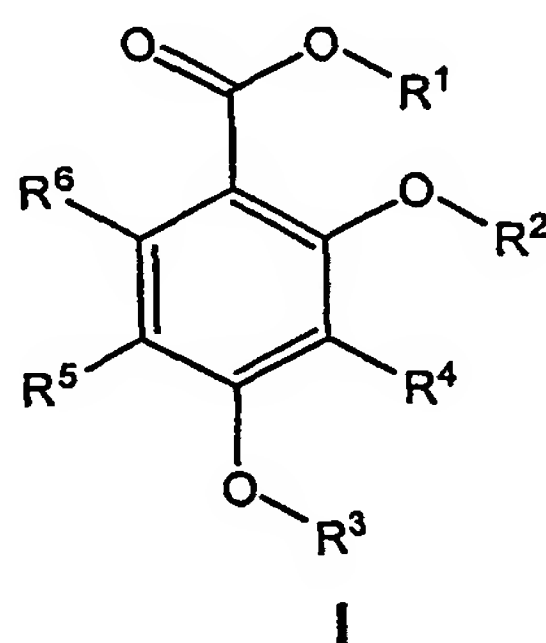
$R^8$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{11}$  independently represent hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl; and

$x$  represents 0, 1 or 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof and one or more additional drugs, as a combined preparation for simultaneous, sequential or separate use.

18.- A product according to claim 17 wherein the additional drug is a chemotherapeutic agent.

19.- Use of a compound of formula I



wherein:

$R^1$  represents hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

$R^2$  represents hydrogen or  $-C(=O)R^7$ ;

$R^3$  represents  $C_{1-5}$  fluoroalkyl,  $C_{2-5}$  fluoroalkenyl or  $C_{2-5}$  fluoroalkynyl;

$R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  independently represent hydrogen,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, nitro,  $-NR^8R^9$ ,  $-S(O)_xR^{10}$  or  $-C(=O)R^{11}$ ;

$R^7$  and  $R^{10}$  independently represent  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

$R^8$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{11}$  independently represent hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl; and

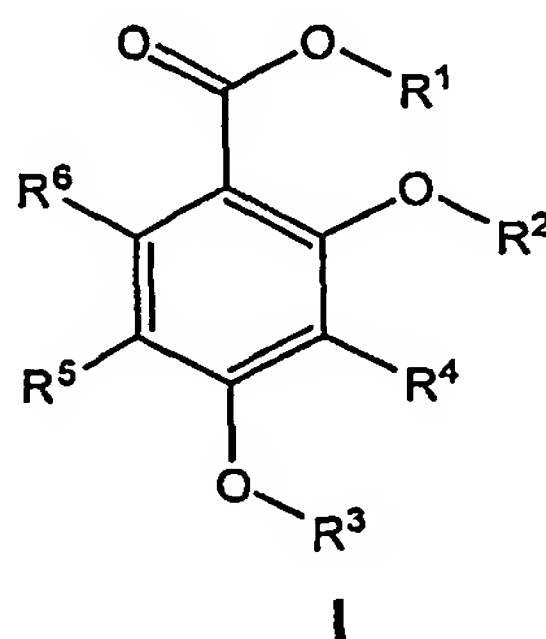
$x$  represents 0, 1 or 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of immune

diseases.

20.- Use according to claim 19 wherein the immune disease is selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, other skin diseases such as atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, lichen planus, dermatomyositis, scleroderma, erythema  
 5 multiforme, urticaria and pemphigus, inflammatory bowel disease including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, rheumatoid arthritis and other arthritic diseases such as gouty arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, juvenile arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis, multiple sclerosis and other autoimmune neuropathies, diabetes, transplant rejection, graft-versus-host disease, lupus erythematosus, vasculitis,  
 10 Sjögren's syndrome, Guillain-Barre syndrome, glomerulonephritis, respiratory diseases such as allergic rhinitis, asthma, fibrosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and neoplasias with proliferation of immune cells.

21.- Use of a compound of formula I



15

wherein:

R<sup>1</sup> represents hydrogen or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen or -C(=O)R<sup>7</sup>;

R<sup>3</sup> represents C<sub>1-5</sub> fluoroalkyl, C<sub>2-5</sub> fluoroalkenyl or C<sub>2-5</sub> fluoroalkynyl;

20 R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> independently represent hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, nitro, -NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, -S(O)<sub>x</sub>R<sup>10</sup> or -C(=O)R<sup>11</sup>;

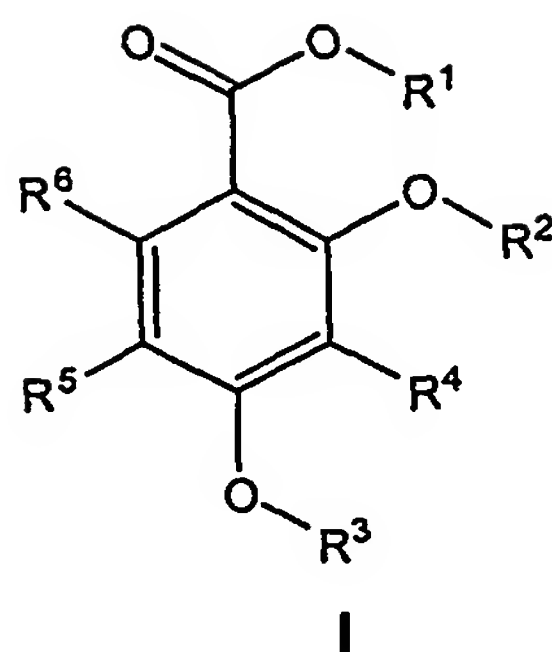
R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> independently represent C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> independently represent hydrogen or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl; and

25 x represents 0, 1 or 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of cancer.

22.- Process for preparing a compound of formula I,



wherein:

$R^1$  represents hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

$R^2$  represents hydrogen or  $-C(=O)R^7$ ;

5  $R^3$  represents  $C_{1-5}$  fluoroalkyl,  $C_{2-5}$  fluoroalkenyl or  $C_{2-5}$  fluoroalkynyl;

$R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  independently represent hydrogen,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, nitro,  $-NR^8R^9$ ,  $-S(O)_xR^{10}$  or  $-C(=O)R^{11}$ ;

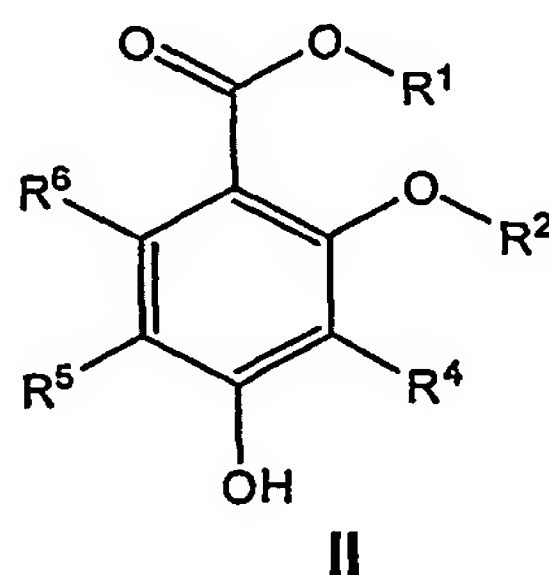
$R^7$  and  $R^{10}$  independently represent  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

10  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{11}$  independently represent hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl; and

$x$  represents 0, 1 or 2;

which comprises:

(a) reacting a phenol of formula II



15 wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  have the meaning described above, with an alkylating agent of formula  $G-R^3$  (III), wherein  $R^3$  has the meaning described above and  $G$  represents a leaving group; or

(b) converting, in one or more steps, a compound of formula I into another compound of formula I; and

20 (c) if desired, after the above steps and when  $R^1$  and/or  $R^2$  represent hydrogen, reacting a compound of formula I with a base, to obtain the corresponding addition salt.